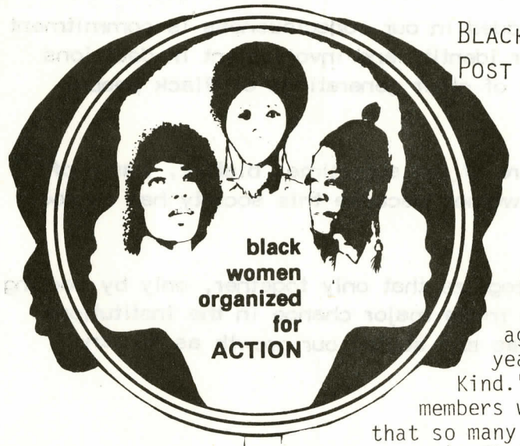
WHAT IT IS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1978

Vol. 6 No.1

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION
POST OFFICE BOX 15072, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115



B.W.O.A.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from the editor...

Okay, so it's the beginning of a New Year---again. Let's try to make it special. I went last year to the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." and got some interesting feed-back from other members who had seen it. It struck me very strangely that so many other people enjoyed the movie. (I fell asleep on it.) Their reasons were similar---there must be something else to life---this isn't all there is--we're ready for something else--we can't be alone in all this. Well, it made me depressed, I'm in the "here and now" myself. So I decided to ask my fellow sisters for New Year's resolutions to help us "make it through." The big surprise was that many of the resolutions were the same. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Here is a sample of the resolutions:

1. To exercise daily for at least 15 minutes.
2. To complete by the end of the year my "30 Day Vocabulary Builder Book"
3. Read at least one periodical a week.
4. Read the newspaper at least every other day--comparing newsy articles.
5. Pay off the balances on my credit cards and limit their use to four (4) credit cards which would include two (2) gas cards.
6. Read at least one book each month in one of these areas: black awareness, women in management, white ideology and related areas that may be brought to my attention in the footnotes.
7. Attempt to develop a capacity (reading or verbal) to understand Spanish.
8. Putting more Black Women in business.
9. Training courses for the underprivileged.
10. Because I am concerned about my health as a black woman, I will try to quit smoking.
11. I resolve to organize my time so that I can offer my skills and talents more effectively to our community.
12. I resolve to extend myself to other Black women.
13. Total change of careers.
14. Spend more time with my husband and children.
15. Finish studying music.
16. Become a millionaire.
17. I resolve to not make Resolutions for 1978.
18. I resolve to LIVE until I die.

R.P.

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 15072
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES
BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

BLACK: We are Black, and therefore imbedded in our consciousness is commitment to the struggle of Black people for identity and involvement in decisions that affect our lives and the lives of other generations of Black people who will follow us.

WOMEN: We are Women, and therefore aware of the sometimes blatant, waste of the talents and energies of Black women because this society has decreed a place for us.

ORGANIZED: We are Organized, because we recognize that only together, only by pooling our talents and resources, can we make major change in the institutions which have limited our opportunities and stifled our growth as human beings.

FOR ACTION: We are For Action, because we believe that the time for rhetoric is past; that the skills of Black women can best be put to use in a variety of ways to change the society; that, in the political world in which we live, involvement for Black women must go beyond the traditional fundraising and into the full gamut of activities that make up the political process which affects our lives in so many ways.

WE ARE BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

****

What we are doing:

*** Organizing a talent bank of Black women whose skills and abilities can be put to use on boards and commissions, in political office, in community training

*** Monitoring the activities of political structures which have important decision making over our lives -- e.g. City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, Boards of Education, etc.

*** Educating Black women, on a non-partisan basis, on the totality of politics and the techniques for influencing decision-making.

*** Giving Black women an opportunity to learn by doing; offering more and more Black women opportunities to exercise leadership and to plan and execute programs; sharing our knowledge and skills.

*** Encouraging Black women to run for office at all levels of the political structure.

WE INTEND TO WORK TO DEVELOP A CONSCIOUSNESS IN BLACK WOMEN THAT POLITICS IS A 365 DAYS A YEAR ACTIVITY, IN WHICH WE MUST ALL PARTICIPATE IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE AND TO PROGRESS.

PLANNING FOR 1978!

Highlights from the 1978 Planning Committee Meeting.

The meeting started and ended on time, (10 a.m. to 12 noon).

Attendance - Outstanding

Discussion - Enthusiastic

HIGHLIGHTS

- Incorporation as non-profit organization
- Telephone Answering Service
- Student Intern Program
- Office space in the proposed Women's Building
- BWOA Youth Group
- BWOA meeting in South Bay
- Outreach to International Women's Organizations
- New Members special Welcome
- New Members "Rap Session" (Quarterly)
- Membership Birthday Party (Quarterly)
- Mass Committee Meetings (Quarterly)
- Black Women's Conference
- Operation "Big Vote"
- Membership Training
- Annual Banquet - Fund Raiser

agenda

February 8

-AGENDA-

6:30pm call to order and introductions
6:45pm treasurer's report
announcements
*7:00pm planning committe report
7:15pm committee meetings

please be prompt.
*following the report of the planning meeting we will break into committee groups. the meetings are held at the Western Addition YWCA, 1830 Sutter St, San Francisco.

This month's newsletter has been brought to you by:

Ammie Felder
Harriet Wright
Lynell Borders
Marilyn Morris
Eleanor Spikes
Patsy Fulcher
Roberta Palm
Laverne Lewis
- editors

Listed below are persons who have indicated they are willing to volunteer as Committee Chairs for 1978. Also listed are meeting times and contact number.

COMMITTEE	MEETING TIMES	COORDINATORS
Education		Zelma Harrison, Kim Staples, Kay Curry (563-5320)
Employment	Third Wednesday	Pearl Neely, Jean Brown, Marilyn Morris (282-4168)
Fund Raising	First Monday	Thurla Wallace, Claudine Benjamin, Lynell Borders (587-1931)
Health	Sunday	Gaile Williams, Sharon Bogarty, Peggy Cole (755-0344 or 843-3784)
Media	Last Thursday	Beth Meador, Rita Myers, Sonja Williams (536-9270)
Membership	Last Wednesday	Ammie Felder, Lelia Lytle, Eleanor Spikes (567-7842 or 387-4221)
Newsletter	1st Sat. after the 20th	Roberta Palm, Laverne Lewis (346-0156)
Political Action	First Tuesday	Roberta Palm, Patsy Fulcher, Maxine Ussery (931-9465)
Small Business	First Thursday	Kathy Ferguson, Carolyn Edwards, Myrtle Parker (346-4064 or 556-3266)
Credit Union	Third Monday	Belinda Dyson, Lynell Borders, Katherine Nash (567-7937 or 775-4600)
IWY/Spec. Projects	As Needed	Belvie Rooks, Harriett Wright, Flora Gilford (584-8492 or 221-4810)
General Meeting	Second Wednesday	First Quarter Coordinators: Lynell Borders, Patsy Fulcher, Eleanor Spikes (587-1931)
Steering Committee	Third Thursday	First Quarters Coordinators: (Same as above)

BWDA salutes....

Hats off to former KQED reporter, Carolyn Craven, for stepping forth and relating her account of being one of the "Stinky" rapist's victims.

Saying that "it's the most horrible, terrifying experience that anyone could go through." Carolyn kept her wits enough to notice many details that might help the police catch the man, who has terrorized single women in the Berkeley area for 4½ years. She described him as being black with a dark complexion, a short Afro and tight nappy hair on his face. He is about 6 feet 1 inch tall and between the ages of 30 to 35. If you have further information, contact Inspector Brian Oliver of the Berkeley Police.

○ ○● ● ● ● ●○ ○

The Black Women's Unit of the University YWCA will sponsor a Health and Nutrition Workshop entitled "The Black Woman, Body, Mind, and Spirit" on Saturday, March 4, 1978. Local health professionals will conduct workshops in holistic health, nutrition and diet, hypertension and stress, polarity manipulation, massage and medication techniques, yoga and exercise, female anatomy, and other health issues relevant to Black women. The workshop, scheduled from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, will cost $5.00 per person. Limited childcare is available and pre-registration is encouraged. For more information, contact Harriet Y. Wright at 848-6370, or come by the Y-House, 2600 Bancroft Way in Berkeley to register.

POEM

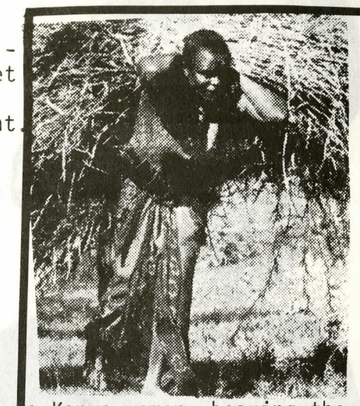
JUST TO BE BOUGHT AND SOLD DOWN THE RIVER
LIKE WILLIE MAYS AND THE OAKLAND RAIDERS
WRISTS CHAINED
BODY RAPED
WHIPPED
AND TATTOOED
AFRIKA
REMAINS ENSLAVED
FIRST AND LAST OF MIGHTY BLACK/WHITE
STRONGHOLDS
AFRIKA
SPLIT LIKE THE SKULL OF BIKO
DIVIDED HEMISPHERES
SHATTERED BY THE TYRANNICAL RAGE OF THE
GREAT DICOTOMY
AS AFRO/EUROPEAN DIALECTICS WAGE IN
OPPOSITION
INTENSIFY FRUSTRATION BY ARMED CONFRON-
TATION
THE
NUCLEUS SPLITS.....MATTER vs. ANTIMATTER
NYERE/VORSTER/SMITH/AMIN (no time for the comic page)
(Meanwhile on another channel)
SADAT BEGINS THINKING
AND ISRAELI/ARABS KISS AWAY COUNTLESS
DYNASTIES OF HATE AND SHAME
TO THE RELIEF OF SANTA CLAUS
(Meanwhile back at the ranch)
AFRIKA
IS PIMPED, COLONIZED VICTIMIZED
AND BRUTALIZED
BY SADO/MASOCHISTIC EXPLOITERS OF A FEAR
OF MAN TO MAN INHUMANITY
AFRIKA
THE TARGET EIGHT BALL
IN THE FINAL GAME OF THE (super confused) SUPERBOWL
SPINS NOISILY IN SPACE
LIKE THE PLANET EARTH
LOUDEST ORBIT IN THE GALAXY
A WIFE BEATING NEIGHBOR
DOWN THE STREET FROM MARS
AND VENUS

Ahimsa
12/25/77

Changing Roles!

The traditional role of women in Africa continues to be challenged as new economic, political, and social pressures upset the male-female relationship. The African woman produces 70% of the food grown on the continent. She works longer and harder and has more responsibilities than her husband. She is the economic backbone of the rural community, the maker of family decisions, the initiator of social change, the harvester of crops.

Margaret Mugo-director of Kenya YWCA.



a Kenya woman, bearing the burden, carrying grass.

In the Fur society of western Sudan, men and women operate separately, cultivating its own land. In parts of Ghana, it was the "Queen Mother" of a village, who determined the line of descent. On the Ivory Coast, it was the women who ran the market economy, and in East Africa, it was the women who did the farming.

Yet, social change, industrialization and moderization seem to be affecting the status of women, such that despite the fact that many women have risen to positions of prominence, who are educated, sophisticated and career-oriented, they are still being treated as second class citizens. Says one woman professor. "I don't think our daughters will tolerate the inequality. Their rights are bound to be broader than ours and their society will be much more open." There is a great deal we as western women can learn from the leadership of our African sisters - as they work to ensure their rights and work to increase their power in major decision making positions.

MAKING IT

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but for Lu Willard, so are gold, silver, rubies, jade, pearls and other precious gems.

She owns Lu Willard Enterprises, a jewelry design and manufacturing firm in New York City. Her firm specializes in custom-made jewelry for individuals and retail department stores.

The Postal Service is issuing a commemorative stamp in honor of Harriet Tubman. The stamp is the first in a Black Heritage USA series. It will go on sale in the District of Columbia on February 1, the beginning of Black History Month.

The Father I Never Knew

You married very young
You became a father
providing for a wife
and a new life.

Facing all the responsibilities
of maturity.
The little lady unexperienced
as an adolescent child trying

to except womanhood.
You met a white swan
Mother wanted freedom
You and the bird loved.

She bore your children
Mother blessed me with an
illegitimate sister and needed
freedom once more.

We were alone.
The three of us, me not knowing
my real father, only memories
mother shared with me.

My sister, in the same situation
too young really to understand.
Mother, trying to be both father
and mother, needing a companion.

Meeting a black scorpion,
falling in love,
I rejected this
He would try to fill my father's

Shoes.
Heading me and my sister
in the right direction
We respected and loved him.

He became the father I never had
never closing the doors leading to
the memories of my father.
I wanted to know my real father

He entered back into my life
The first time really seeing him
He was peaceful and had no worries
He was asleep -asleep for eternity

My mother cried
I cried
I screamed to myself
I would have loved you more

If I had known you
I loved another
Who I knew more
You were my father and

You left me with tears, memories,
and two sisters
If we could not love together
in this world

We will love in the next.

Gidget M. M. Lewis

(Dedicated to Leon Lewis---- May your soul sing in harmony with the Lord)

PEOPLE

Kai Maxwell Named To KPIX

Kai Maxwell has been named to co-anchor Eyewitness News at noon on KPIX. Kai replaces Belva Davis, who recently joined KQED-TV. Born and raised in New Yory City, she attended Queen's college.

...in the NEWS

Maxine Waters Gets Assembly Judiciary Post

Assemblywoman, Maxine Waters has been appointed to the Assembly Judiciary Committee by Speaker Leo T. Mc Carthy.

As a woman and a non-lawyer, Waters becomes a rare addition to the otherwise male, attorney-dominated Judiciary Committee.

Letters!

It was so kind and so thoughtful of you to send the beautiful plant. I am now home enjoying a long recuperation. My thanks to each of you.

Sincerely yours,

Vermeta Hill

CO~OP NEWS

BWOA MEMBERS PAT AND PEGGY JOIN BERKELEY CO-OP MANAGEMENT STAFFS

In December, Pat Scott and Peggy Cole assumed positions in management with Berkeley's Consumers Cooperative and The Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union respectively. Pat becomes the Personnel Director for Co-op, where among her many responsibilities will be employee education and staff training programs. For the past year, Pat has been at RayChem in Palo Alto.

Peggy is moving from the position of Education Assistant at the Telegraph Ave. and University Ave. Co-op food stores to the Co-op Credit Union where she will be Information Officer for members services and education, and will handle the Credit Union's marketing programs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!

*

BWOA HEALTH COMMITTEE: HEALTH TO 'YA:

It has been too long since our Health Committee has been active. Due to overly busy schedules and a variety of personal responsibilities, members of our committee have not been able to meet regularly. We intend, however, to reactive the committee after the first of the new year. If you are a member of BWOA or are planning to join us and have an interest in health, please write to: Ms. Peggy Cole, 54 Ridgefield Avenue, Daly City, CA. 94015 and let me know your interests and concerns. Please include your telephone number so we can call you when we schedule the next meeting.

Recommended reading: "OUR BODIES, OURSELVES", "THE WELL BODY BOOK", and "RAW VEGETABLE JUICES" by Dr. N.W. Walker.

P.S. Try garlic capsules and honey and lemon juice when you have a cold --- works wonders. Peggy Cole

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

During the past twelve (12) months, many interesting, surprising, pleasing, disappointing, gratifying, scary, wonderful, and inspiring people and things touched my life.

And because I believe that our ancestral spirits have guided my often unsteady steps onto firmer ground, I give thanks to them for your friendship.

There are several writing tasks that I have set for myself to complete before the end of this year and it is therefore, necessary (I think), for you to know this because it means that I will be unable to party, gossip, hang-out, sleep late or drop in with you as much as I would like to. Please do continue to include me in your best thoughts and reserve my place in your affections. Every now and then, I will come up for air and I will immediately reach out for you.

Furaha

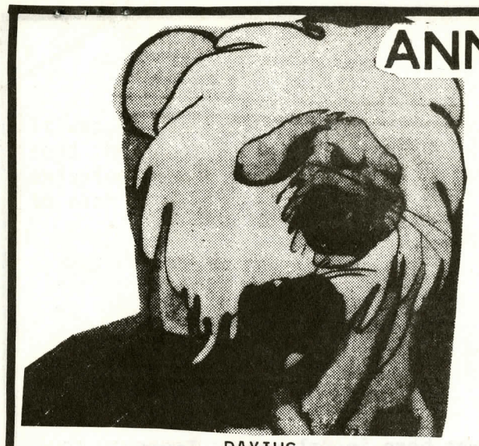
Nguzo Saba Films, Inc. announces its latest film in the series on the seven principles of Unity, Kuumba: Simon's New Sound. Its an animated folktale about a boy from Trinidad who uses creative gifts to develop a new instrument. For more information, write to Nguzo Saba Films, Inc., 1002 Clayton St., San Francisco, CA. 94117.

BOOK BUYS

The Federal Government bookstore has nineteen special workshop guides from the Houston meeting of IWY, 1977. Titles cover all issues voted upon in Houston from child care, ERA and credit to employment, female offenders and wife abuse. Check these out as well as a pamphlet series on women's issues at the San Francisco Federal Building.

Also, two excellent hardcover books, Directory of Financial Aids for Women, and Minorities and Women: A Guide to Reference Literature in the Social Sciences are available from the Reference Service Press, 9023 Alcott Street, Suite 201, L.A., CA. 90035

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DAXIUS

Daxius is the story of a benevolent leader of wise and powerful black panthers, who himself is part human and part panther. The story was created by 10 year-old Dante Westbrook, grandson of BWOA's Idare Westbrook. The book is beautifully illustrated by muralist Dewey Crumpler and can be purchased at Marcus Book Store, 540 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA.

How the State of California feels about using intellig ence tests in schools in ve-r-rry interesting.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Joanne Condas contends that the tests are "remarkably good predictors of a child's educational ability." Condas launched the state's opening argument in the case brought on behalf of five black children w hose parents believe they were placed in "educable mentally retarted" classes solely on the basis of I.Q. test perfromances. She contends the State Department of Education decided to fight the parent's case because "it wants to end the disastrous influence that these psychologists have had on the lives of black children." TELL US ABOUT IT!

Interested in Management, Public Service, or Law? Golden Gate University's Continuing Education Department is offering several relevant courses this month -- Employment Discrimination and Affirmative Action Law, The New Supervisor, and New Dimensions in Health Care. Get your employer to pay the tuition costs! Call 391-7800 for more details.

The Commission on the Status of Women and the Mayor's Office of Economic Development will co-sponsor a one day workshop on "How to Start a Business" on Saturday, February 4, 1978. The workshop's keynote speaker will be Patricia Plant, an investment counselor, who will speak on technical and financial issues in starting a business. The workshop will be held at 50 Fell Street in San Francisco and cost is $6.00 per person. For further information, contact the Commission.

The State Bar Association's Office of Legal Services is holding a lobbying seminar February 4, 1978, from 9:00AM - 4:00PM at Hardy Hall, USF. If you need to sharpen your lobbying skills, check it out. It costs $25 per person. For more information, call BWOA member Beth Meador at her residence, 839-5359 or at business, 922-1440.

The International Women's Year Committee will be holding a reception for visiting Sengelese film directors during the first week of February, 1978. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet brilliant brothers and sisters. Members for the committee will contact you. For more information, call BWOA member Flora Gilford, 584-8492.

The Health Committee will hold its first meeting of the year, February 5, 1978. Call Peggy Cole at 755-0344 or843-3784.

$$ $$ $$

Bay Area Feminist Federal Credit Union (BAFFCU) is having its annual meeting: Monday, February 27, 1978, at 6:00 PM at the YWCA, 1830 Sutter St., S.F. (Western Addition).

The Center for Continuing Education is hosting a two-day seminar on Women in Management. Removing barriers, it will be held on February 3-4, 1978, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post Street, SF. Fee-$75.

ELLIE!!!

Eleanor Ruth Spikes, better known to us as Ellie, was born in Galveston, Texas. An only child she was educated and raised in California and is the Leo mother of one son. This is about all of the personal information one can glean from her extensive resume. We, however, know that Ellie Spikes is one of the most energetic, involved and interesting women around.

She is one of our founding members who, along with 12-15 other women gave birth to B.W.O.A. She was there at the very first meeting and has been an active member ever since, serving on the Political Action, Fundraising, and I.W.Y. committees. She has also participated as head of the Membership Committee and will begin another stint as one of our new Coordinators. Ellie is also our historian and has maintained a file of all correspondence relating to the group, including our very first newsletter, dated May, 1973.

The newsletter originally came about as a means of communicating information about jobs to B.W.O.A. members. Job information is still communicated to members via Ellie's office. Many members have benefitted from this circulation of information. When asked about her present position as an Information Resource Consultant (Ellie is a self-employed partner of Hernandez and Associates) she says, "I know a little bit about a lot of things, but not a whole lot about anything...I receive and research a lot of information and this has ended up being a job referral center."

Ellie's relentless energy is also evident in her many community activities. She's presently serving on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood, the Mayor's Advisory Committee to the C.E.T.A. program, the Board of Directors for the Buchanan YMCA (that's right, YMCA), the Police Liaison Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and is Treasurer of her church circle at Jones Methodist Church.

When she has some spare time, she enjoys swimming and going out to dinner. She also loves music... "a little of everything except Country/Western"...and movies which are an escape..."the more fantasy, the better; I'm out here dealing with reality everyday. The last movie I saw was the 'Turning Point'. I really enjoyed that - it indicates that women's roles are improving. We still have to work on more positive images for Black women, not always depicting us as prostitutes and welfare mothers. Films are getting better, but even Poitier's 'A Piece of the Action' had the leading man living with a woman but not married."

Ellie's own turning point came when "I bridged the gap between being a clerical person and a professional person. I did this through on the job experience and volunteer experience without having any degrees. However, I am enrolled as of this year at University of San Francisco to get my degree. There is a special continuing education program which takes into account your working and life experiences and awards you a degree in Human Relations and Organizational Behavior. The program is 18 months long and a lot of reading and writing."

Where does a person get this much energy and dedication? Ellie's answer was that "it's important that people be involved so that we know what's going on. Black women should be involved in all facets of the decision making process. All facets of life has an impact upon Black people. Everything affects us. We need to be at the Board of Supervisors' meetings, as well as at hearings on legislation so that we have some input at that level before any laws are passed....I have always been involved ever since my early teens. I guess my involvement is a carry-over from those early years.

"My personal advice to others would be to get involved. We need commitment and involvement in many different levels. Women who are involved and concerned are more interesting women. We need to remember that there are many others out there with more problems than we have. We all have problems but we need to get out there and DO."

-Ammie Felder

CALENDAR

The California Commission on the Status of Women, and the Alameda County Commission on the Status Of Women are sponsoring a job counseling and job skills development conference which will include the problems third world women have seeking employment. This conference will be held February 4, 1978 from 8:30 AM til 4:30 PM at the College of Alameda, Student Activities Building F, 555 Atlantic Blvd., Alameda, CA. 94501. The $4.00 fee includes workshop packet and Boy Lunch.

* * *

Women Associates, a division of Associate Control, Research Analysis, Inc. is offering a conference to aid women into and through Apprenticeship Programs and Building Trades. It will be held in San Francisco on February 16, 1978 at the Sheraton Hotel from 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Fee is $130. For information call (202) 347-9100.

* * *

Turnabout, the new KQED produced Public Broadcasting Services series, premieres "Juggling" on Monday, January 30, 1978 at 10:15 PM. Juggling will look at the way women meet the demands of children, jobs, house and husbands. Juggling will be repeated on Channel 9 on Thursday, February 2, 1978 at 8:30 PM and again on Monday, February 6, 1978 at 2:00 PM.

San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society invites you to attend their 1978 Black History Week -

Theme: "Roots, Achievements, and Projections". Admission is free. The events are as follows:

Sun - Feb. 12, 1978 - 3-6 PM

Premiers "Photographs-Artifacts Exhibit".

Tue - Feb. 14, 1978 - 7:30 PM

Panel discussion: "Roots, Achievements, and Projections".

Wed - Feb. 15, 1978

Children's tour and slide show.

Thur -Feb. 16, 1978 - 7:30 PM

Black History Week film and slide show.

Fri - Feb. 17, 1978 - 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Children's tour and slide show.

Sat - Feb. 18, 1978 - 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Black History Week bus tour.

Sun - Feb. 19, 1978 - 3:00 PM

San Francisco Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc. program at the AAHCS.